What is Claimed is:

1.   A method of managing a computer mass storage system that hosts a plurality of users comprising:

obtaining agreement with a user to provide a level of erasure of hosted data on

5   the computer mass storage system; and

erasing the hosted data according to the level of erasure that was agreed upon.

2.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein the level of erasure comprises:

overwriting the hosted data with new data as the new data is generated by

10   another user;

bulk erasing the hosted data; and/or

destroying at least a portion of the computer mass storage system that includes the hosted data.

15   3.   A method according to Claim 2 wherein bulk erasing comprises:

single pass bulk erasing the hosted data; or

multiple pass bulk erasing the hosted data.

4.   A method according to Claim 3 wherein multiple pass bulk erasing

20   comprises:

repeatedly bulk erasing the hosted data, with different bulk erasing patterns.

5.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein the hosted data is contained in a storage medium of the computer mass storage system and wherein the erasing

25   comprises erasing the hosted data according to the level of erasure that was agreed upon, in response to repurposing the storage medium.

6.   A method of managing a computer system that hosts a plurality of users comprising:

30   obtaining agreement with a user to provide one of a plurality of levels of

security when the computer system hosts the user; and

> providing the level of security that was agreed upon when the computer system hosts the user.

5   7.   A method according to Claim 6 wherein the computer system comprises a computer mass storage system and wherein the plurality of levels of security comprises a plurality of levels of erasure of a computer mass storage system that hosts user data.

10   8.   A method of managing a business or personal computer mass storage system comprising:

> automatically destroying the business or personal computer mass storage system upon occurrence of a predetermined business or personal event, absent an override within a predetermined time of the predetermined business or personal event.

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         9.   A method according to Claim 8 wherein the predetermined business or personal event comprises:

> a changed environmental condition; and/or
> a command from an authorized sender.

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         10.   A method according to Claim 8 wherein the predetermined business or personal event is a changed environmental condition and wherein the override comprises a command to ignore the changed environmental condition.

25   11.   A method according to Claim 8 wherein the business or personal event is a first command from an authorized or unauthorized sender and wherein the override comprises a second command from an authorized sender to ignore the first command.

30   12.   A method according to Claim 8 wherein the predetermined business or

personal event is a command that is issued responsive to bankruptcy of a user of the business or personal computer mass storage system.

13. A method according to Claim 8 wherein the predetermined business or personal event is theft of the business or personal computer mass storage system.

14. A system for managing a computer mass storage system that hosts a plurality of users comprising:

means for obtaining agreement with a user to provide a level of erasure of hosted data on the computer mass storage system; and

means for erasing the hosted data according to the level of erasure that was agreed upon.

15. A system according to Claim 14 wherein the level of erasure comprises:

overwriting the hosted data with new data as the new data is generated by another user;

bulk erasing the hosted data; and/or

destroying at least a portion of the computer mass storage system that includes the hosted data.

16. A system according to Claim 14 wherein the hosted data is contained in a storage medium of the computer mass storage system and wherein the means for erasing comprises means for erasing the hosted data according to the level of erasure that was agreed upon, in response to repurposing the storage medium.

17. A system for managing a computer system that hosts a plurality of users comprising:

means for obtaining agreement with a user to provide one of a plurality of levels of security when the computer system hosts the user; and

means for providing the level of security that was agreed upon when the computer system hosts the user.

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18.   A business or personal computer system comprising:

a business or personal computer mass storage system; and

means for automatically destroying the business or personal computer mass storage system upon occurrence of a predetermined business or personal event, absent an override within a predetermined time of the predetermined business or personal event.

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19.   A system according to Claim 18 wherein the predetermined business or personal event comprises:

a changed environmental condition; and/or

a command from an authorized sender.

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20.   A system according to Claim 18 wherein the means for automatically destroying comprises:

a timer that is responsive to the business/personal event;

a reset module that is responsive to the override to reset the timer; and

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a destruction module that is responsive to the timer to destroy at least a portion of the mass storage system.